MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI: May I know, Sir, whether there was any report from the Devaswom Commissioner that the water supply from Kumbalam *Todu* during the festival had become short at 11 a. m.?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: No, Sir; Government have not received any such report.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Sir, may I know how long the supply of water from the Kallar river has been under the consideration of Government or the Devaswom Commissioner?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: I cannot give the exact period but I know what it is under the consideration of the Department at present.

MR. N. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Vaikom* cum *Kottayam*): May I know the shortest distance from the Kallar river to the Sabarimala Temple?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: I claim notice.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum Town*): May I know from Government, whether it is a fact that the number of pilgrims has considerably increased in recent years?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: I think so, Sir.

Supply of Kallar river water to Sabarimala pilgrims.

186. MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is a proposal before them for the the supply of water from Kallar river to the pilgrims at Sabarimala?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI: None with Government, but the Devaswom Commissioner has taken up the subject for consideration.

Petition from the Sabarimala pilgrims.

187. MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received a monster petition in 1111 M. E. from the pilgrims that go to Sabarimala, praying for affording certain conveniences to them; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken in the matter?

RAO BAHADUR RAJYASEVANIRATA DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI:

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The following special works were executed:—

(1) Sloping and widening of the portion of the pathway from Erumeli to Azhutha where it descends to the Azhutha river.

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[Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai,]

(2) Sloping and widening of the portion of the pathway where it ascends from Pampa to Neelimala.

(3) Providing wire hand-rails for the support of the pilgrims wherever necessay.

(4) Clearing jungle growths on camping grounds.

(5) Cutting trenches.

(6) Providing petromax lights at halting places.

(7) Providing temporary bridges across the trenches around the Sabarimala temple.

(8) Supplying drinking water by pipe line from Kumbalam *thodu* to Sabarimala.

(9) Provision of Ayurveda medical and sanitary aid at Pampa and Sabarimala; and

(10) Special parties were deputed for the prevention of illicit sale of liquor on the pilgrim routes.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Sir, I wish to say a few words in this connection.

PRESIDENT: In which connection?

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI: With regard to this question I want to say a word.

PRESIDENT: Is it by way of personal explanation?

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Not exactly so, Sir.

PRESIDENT: Very well.

MR. S NILAKANTA PILLAI: For the last three years, I have been a pilgrim myself. Sir, I know as a matter of fact.....

PRESIDENT: Order, order. Evidently, from the first few words it is clear that there is some kind of personal explanation that the honourable member wants to give. If the honourable member wants to give a personal explanation I shall permit him.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Yes, Sir. I know as a matter of fact that two to three lakhs of people visit the temple during the festival day and there is very great difficulty in the matter of getting good water. There are two tanks within the temple premises and practically there is no water in these tanks.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. The object of questions and answers is not to import but to elicit information. If the honourable member wishes to place certain facts before Government, we shall be only too glad to receive a representation which will be specially attended to when backed by personal experience as evidently is the case in this matter. But at question time the honourable member can only ask for information and not give information.

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